

## What do the nursery license/plant sale permit fees support?

License fees, along with charges for certain types of inspections, help support the fair and orderly trade of horticulture plants in Washington.

Inspections help protect the nursery industry, as well as the consumer, by ensuring horticultural plants offered for sale are free from infestation by pests and diseases, are properly labeled and are not otherwise damaged or dying.

Plant Services inspectors also enforce agricultural quarantines to keep out such exotic pests as Japanese beetle and Asian gypsy moth, as well as provide inspection services to allow shipment of Washington nursery products to other states and countries.

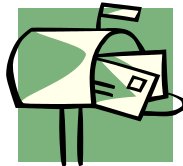
## Are there penalties for license/permit violations?

Yes, persons who violate the license/permit requirements are subject to a civil penalty up to \$1,000. Violations may also result in a license or permit being denied, suspended or revoked.

*Inquiries regarding availability of this publication in alternative formats should be directed to the WSDA Information Office at (360) 902-1813 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (360) 902-1996*

## Additional Licensing Information

For additional information on obtaining a nursery license, a master business license, or for the location of the licensing office nearest you, call 1-800-451-7985 or write to the Department of Revenue at:



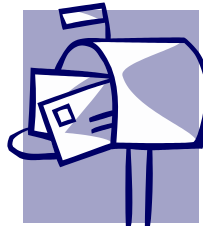
**Department of Revenue  
Business Licensing Service  
PO Box 47475  
Olympia, WA 98504-7475**

Mail fees/payments to:  
**Business Licensing Service  
PO Box 9034  
Olympia, WA 98504-9034**

**Apply Online:  
[www.bls.dor.wa.gov/nursery.aspx](http://www.bls.dor.wa.gov/nursery.aspx)**

For additional information on nursery licensing laws and rules, interstate shipment of plant materials, laws and regulations governing plant health or to obtain a plant sale permit, call the Plant Services Program at (360) 902-1874 or email [nursery@agr.wa.gov](mailto:nursery@agr.wa.gov). You may also write the Plant Services Program at:

**Plant Services Program  
Plant Protection Division  
WA State Dept. of Agriculture  
P. O. Box 42560  
Olympia, WA 98504-2560**



# LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR SALE OF PLANT MATERIALS IN WASHINGTON STATE

Horticultural Plants and Facilities -  
Inspection & Licensing



RCW 15.13

**Washington State  
Department of Agriculture  
Plant Protection Division  
Plant Services Program**  
Revised August 2011

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## Who must obtain a nursery license?

Any person who handles or sells horticultural plants is considered a “nursery dealer” and is required by law to have a license (also known as an agriculture addendum) for ***each place of business where horticultural plants are sold***. This includes wholesalers, retailers, growers, shippers and landscapers who sell or install plants as a part of their business.

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## What kind of businesses need a nursery license?

Here are some examples of businesses who are required to be licensed:

- Wholesale and retail nurseries, growers and garden centers.
- Landscapers who buy plants to install.
- Landscapers who hold or grow plants for later sale or installation.
- Maintenance companies who install plants for customers.
- Brokers located in Washington who buy and sell, but do not hold plants.
- Grocery and warehouse stores that offer plants for sale.
- Pet and aquarium stores that sell aquatic plants.

And others not listed above.

If you are still unsure if your business needs a nursery license, please contact us at (360) 902-1874.

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## Can a business be exempt from nursery licensing?

Garden clubs, charitable non-profit associations, educational organizations and conservation districts, under certain conditions, are exempted from the licensing requirements (RCW 15.13.270), but they are required to have a plant sale permit.

Persons who sell only cut plant material and persons making casual or isolated sales that ***do not exceed \$100 annually*** are exempted from licensing and permit requirements.

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## How is the nursery license fee determined?

Nursery license fees are based on gross sales in horticultural plants and whether a person is a retail or wholesale nursery dealer. Persons who conduct both retail and wholesale business are required to obtain a license for the class of sales with the highest gross business. For the current fee, refer to the chart listed below:

| CLASS      | ANNUAL GROSS SALES | COST      |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Retailer   | \$100 - \$2,500    | \$50.40*  |
|            | \$2,501 - \$15,000 | \$109.20* |
|            | Over \$15,000      | \$218.40* |
| Wholesaler | \$15,000 or under  | \$109.20* |
|            | Over \$15,000      | \$218.40* |

\*Per location

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## Where do I get a plant sale permit?

Educational or non-profit groups may receive a plant sale permit by completing the permit application process at the agency website. For questions regarding this permit and/or application process, please contact the Plant Services Program at (360) 902-1874 or via email: **[nursery@agr.wa.gov](mailto:nursery@agr.wa.gov)**. The fee is **\$6.70 per permit**.

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## Where do I get a nursery license?

The Washington State Department of Revenue (DOR) is responsible for issuing nursery licenses in conjunction with their Business Licensing Service. There are over 40 locations where nursery license applications can be obtained. To find the location nearest you or obtain an application and license by mail, call the DOR at 1-800-451-7985 or apply online at [www.bls.dor.wa.gov](http://www.bls.dor.wa.gov).

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## Where do I display the nursery license?

A separate nursery license must be posted in a conspicuous place at ***each*** location where horticultural plants are sold to the public.

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## When do I need to renew my nursery license?

Nursery licenses must be renewed annually. A late fee is charged for renewal license applications filed after the expiration date on the business license.